

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-04 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1128

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13239

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR LE

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE--US VIEWS ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

REF: STATE 237804

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED US POSITION OUTLINED REFTTEL WITH IBRAHIM KHARMA, HEAD OF MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SECTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO FINAL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND THAT THERE WILL BE INTER-ARAB CONSULTATIONS IN ROME. HOWEVER, KHARMA, WHO HELPED DRAFT GOL OPENING STATEMENT, INDICATED THAT GOL VIEWS FAVORABLY INCLUSION FOOD/POPULATION RELATIONSHIP IN DISCUSSION AND ALSO BELIEVES EACH STATE MUST EXERT ALL EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTION OF CEREALS FOR ITS INTERNAL NEEDS. WE UNCERTAIN WHETHER LEB DEL PLANS INITIATE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCS IN MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, BUT KHARMA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WEALTHIER STATES SHOULD BE PREPARED OFFER LDCS EQUIPMENT, AID IN PRODUCING FERTILIZERS, ETC., ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS TO STIMULATE LDCS TO PRODUCE MORE FOOD FOR THEIR OWN CONSUMPTION.

2. KHARMA INFORMS US THAT LEBANESE DEL IN ROME WILL BE COMPOSED OF FOLLOWING:

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ELIAS HRAOUI DEPUTY FROM ZAHLE AND CHAIRMAN OF

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

DR. MUSTAFA KHALED DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DR. IBRAHIM MARROUCH LEBANESE PERMREP TO FAO

JOSEPH SHAMI HEAD, DEPT OF PROGRAMMING AND PROJECTS,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

KHALIL SHUWAYRI HEAD, DEPT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE

3. COMMENT: WE REGARD COMPOSITION OF LEBANESE DEL AS UNUSUALLY
WEAK. HRAOUI, WHO SPEAKS ONLY FRENCH AND ARABIC, IS LANDOWNER
FROM BEKAA. KHALED, BROTHER OF LEBANON'S GRAND MUFTI,
IS UNINTELLIGENT, LAZY AND HIGHLY UNRELIABLE. UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY SUGGESTS BEST BET WOULD BE TO
RELY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON LESSER-RANKING, BUT PROBABLY MORE PRO-
FESSIONAL MEMBERS.

GODLEY

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